

CLAIMS

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1. Process module for a processing station for performing a predetermined function, comprising a controller associated with a program control unit to which a program for controlling the process module is supplied, characterised in that the controller comprises a program data administrator unit which co-ordinates the transfer of the program associated with the process module out of a program data memory into the program control unit.
  2. Process module of claim 1, wherein the controller comprises the program data memory.
  3. Process module of claim 1, wherein the controller comprises the program control unit.
  4. Process module of claim 2, wherein the controller comprises the program control unit.
  5. Process module of claim 1, wherein the program control unit is provided as a microprocessor.
  6. Process module of claim 1, wherein program data administrator unit comprises a memory unit for storing data specific to the process module.
  7. Process module of claim 1, wherein the program data administrator unit can be connected through a bus to the program data memory.

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8. Processing station with at least one process module for performing a predetermined function, where the process module comprises a controller associated with a program control unit to which a program for controlling the process module is supplied and with a bus system for transferring data to the controller of the process module, characterised in that the controller comprises a program data administrator unit which co-ordinates the transfer of the program associated with the process module out of the program data memory into the program control unit.
  9. Processing station of claim 8, wherein a basis controller is provided and wherein the process module comprises an interface for connection to the basis controller.
  10. Processing station of claim 9, wherein the basis controller comprises the program control unit.
  11. Processing station of claim 8, wherein the program control unit is configured as a microcomputer.
  12. Processing station of claim 8, wherein several process modules are provided and wherein the programs associated with the process modules are supplied to the program control unit.
  13. Processing station of claim 12, wherein the program control unit comprises several microprocessors, so that the

programs associated with the process modules are supplied to run in parallel on the different microprocessors.

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14. Processing station of claim 13, where at least one of the microprocessors is provided in a controller of the process module.
  15. Processing station of claim 8, wherein the basis controller and/or the controller are configured to establish a connection with the program data memory, which lies outside of the processing station.
  16. Processing station of claim 15, wherein the connection to the program data memory takes place over the Internet, and wherein the program data memory is provided in a server connected to the Internet.
  17. Method for starting up a processing station of claim 8, characterised in that after connection of a process module to the processing station via the interface, the program for controlling the process module is read out of the program data memory depending on the data specific to the process module stored in the program data administrator unit and is transferred to the program control unit.
  18. Method of claim 17, wherein the data specific to the process module comprise at least one of the following data: storage location of the program, target location

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for the transfer of the program and identification data  
of the process module.

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